

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on January 14, 2009 in Room 545-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research
Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Kansas Legislative Revisor
Matt Sterling, Kansas Legislative Revisor
Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Darin Headrick, Superintendent, USD 422, Greensburg School District
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education
Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools

Others attending:

See attached list.

Darin Headrick, Superintendent, USD 422, Greensburg School District, appeared informally before the committee. Mr. Headrick reported on the advances the school district has made in reconstructing buildings since the devastating tornado which destroyed a large portion of the community.

Introduction of Bills

Senator John Vratil requested the introduction of three different bills . The first, 9rs0025, deals with the repeal of six statutes, each one of which related to an individual school district and authorizes that school district to purchase or sell real estate, the transaction of which has long been consummated. The second, 9rs0024, was recommended by the attorney for the Department of Education. It repeals two statutes dealing with the At Risk Education Council which no longer exists. The third, 9rs0201, a bill actually introduced last year, would give school districts the same authority to invest their idle funds in certain types of investments as cities and counties.

As there were no objections to the introduction of these bills, they were accepted as read.

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools, requested the introduction of a bill which would change current requirements regarding the disclosure of initiative campaign income and expenses to be the same rules as legislators must follow.

Senator Vratil moved to ask the Revisors to write a bill regarding this, seconded by Senator Umbarger. The motion carried.

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education, spoke before the Committee regarding Fiscal Year 2010 Potential Reductions for school districts (Attachment 1)

The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Fiscal Year 2010

Potential Reductions

- Increase pupil-teacher ratios as a result of reduced teaching staff.
- Fund programs from contingency reserve fund.
- Reduce non-essential travel for students and faculty including field trips.
- Reduce instructional supplies.
- Reduce before and after school programs.
- Reduce instructional support such as reading coaches, paraprofessionals, etc.

Fiscal Year 2010

Potential Reductions

- Reduce professional development.
- Review and reduce non-licensed personnel such as custodians, food service workers, maintenance, etc.
- Reduce educational leadership.
- Delay textbook and computer rotation purchases.
- Delay purchase of school buses unless essential.
- Provide minimum increases in salaries.
- Struggle to meet health insurance increases.

Fiscal Year 2010

Potential Reductions

- Delay implementation of all-day kindergarten.
- Reduce number of contact days to the minimum required by law.
- Reduce extracurricular activities including athletics, fine arts, etc.
- Reduce security/resource officers.
- Increase local option budget for those districts that have not reached the maximum.
- Discontinue transporting students not required by law.

Fiscal Year 2010

Potential Reductions

- LONG-TERM—Reductions will have an impact on academic achievement